

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks set forth below. Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19-27 remain in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 17, 19 and 20 are amended. Claims 8 and 18 are canceled. Claims 2-5, 9-16 and 21-27 remain unchanged.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 9-10, 16-17, 21 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hicks (U.S. Patent No. 6,429,894). For a reference to anticipate a claimed invention, each and every element of the claim must be found in the reference.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, inter alia, a “method for maintaining even burn-in in a display unit having a plurality of display elements, the method comprising the steps of...detecting when the display unit is turned off...determining if the display is going to remain off for an extended time period and...displaying a corrective image on the identified non-active display elements if it is determined that the display is going to remain off for an extended time period.” Support for the amendment is found on page 9 of the application from line 26 to line 28. The steps of “determining if the display is going to remain off for an extended time period” and “displaying a corrective image on the identified non-active display elements if it is determined that the display is going to remain off for an extended time period” are important elements of applicants’ claimed invention since these steps help ensure that the corrective image is displayed on the non-active display elements of the display when a user is not likely to turn the display on (i.e., desire to view video on the display).

In contrast to claim 1, Hicks appears to disclose a CRT Phosphor aging method wherein a CRT age equalizing time is calculated after a TV is turned off by a user, after the equalizing time is calculated a CRT cover is electromechanically moved from an uncovered position to a covered position so a user will not see the display of a corrective image on the TV screen, and then the corrective image is displayed. (Col. 9, lns. 28-51; Col. 10, ln. 58 to Col. 11, ln. 21). Although Hicks does disclose a method for displaying a corrective image for CRT age equalization, Hicks does not disclose the “determining if the display is going to remain off for

an extended time period and...displaying a corrective image on the identified non-active display elements if it is determined that the display is going to remain off for an extended time period” limitations of amended claim 1. Since claim 1 contains at least one element that is missing from Hicks, Applicants respectfully propose that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 2-5, 9-10 and 16 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Independent claim 17 is amended to include elements similar to the elements of amended independent claim 1 and should therefore be allowable for the same reasons discussed above as well as for the additional recitations contained therein. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 21 and 27 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 17, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-7, 11-15, 19-20 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks.

Dependent claim 6 is amended to recite “wherein the step of determining if the display is going to be off for an extended time period includes the step of comparing a current date and time to a user-selected start date and start time.” Support for this amendment is found on page 8 of the application from line 6 to line 9. Dependent claim 6 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that it contains. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Dependent claim 7 is amended to recite “wherein the step of determining if the display is going to be off for an extended time period includes the steps of...tracking a user’s viewing habits...storing the times that the display is turned on and off... and storing each length of time that the display remains on and off.” Support for this amendment is found on page 9 of the application from line 26 to line 32. Dependent claim 7 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that it contains. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Dependent claims 11-15 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Dependent claim 19 is amended to recite “wherein the means for determining if the active display region is going to be inactive for an extended time period includes a means for comparing a current date and time to a user-selected start date and start time.” Support for this amendment is found on page 8 of the application from line 6 to line 9. Dependent claim 19

being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 17, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that it contains. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

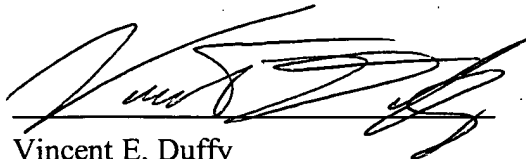
Dependent claim 20 is amended to recite "wherein the means for determining if the active display region is going to be inactive for an extended time period includes...means for tracking a user's viewing habits...means for storing the times that the active display region is active and inactive and...means for storing the length of time that the active display region remains active and inactive." Support for this amendment is found on page 9 of the application from line 26 to line 32. Dependent claim 20 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 17, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that it contains. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Dependent claims 22-26 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 17, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claims 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (317) 587-4019, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fees, other than those discussed above, are believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Vincent E. Duffy

Reg. No. 39,964

Phone (317) 587-4019

Patent Operations

THOMSON multimedia Licensing, Inc.

P.O. Box 5312

Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

January 28, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

1/28/05
date



Vincent E. Duffy